

Please do not cease requirements for Morse Code. This is a sector that must not die and is time honored recognition of the very beginnings or communication by means of electrical capacity. It has served our nation well.

Even more so, the skill acquired in proficiency of Morse Code is a gratifying feeling of self esteem. It is a vital necessity to place value upon person goals and the effort to strive to reach those goals. Morse Code offers a unique means to give feelings of value toward the amateur radio license. I have had my license for over twenty-five years and studied very hard to learn the required code. I have always carried a sense of pride for my personal achievements in that area. The mere fact that I learned the code and passed proficiency test in it have added a very deep value I carry in my heart for amateur radio licenses.

We have seen a trend to “give” to anyone that asks for something. Giving anything lowers its value by the very act of giving. Earning a reward, be it a successful job well done or as a result of diligent effort raises the value of the reward. Please, consider the license level of those who ask for an end to Morse Code requirements and see if they are the people that have never shown proficiency in code, as a majority.

Just as we are on the very aftermath of the most horrendous natural disaster ever to strike our nation, the amateur radio community is standing shoulder to shoulder to aid in establishing communications in the ravaged areas. The pride is there, the service is there. The self esteem is there, among these operators. Please do not cheapen their achievements by giving out wholesale licenses to people that will not devote the time to learn a simple basic code and show proficiency in it.

If you think history is no teacher, simply look at the eleven meter band and see what mass influx of people accomplished into a communications area that was governed by a license without earning it and without value.

Paul Wilson
KI5VE